UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

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◄ NOVEMBER 2018 ►

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- 1119 A.V. Williams

- Main CS Department Site
- Giving to CS Undergraduates
- Schedule a Visit
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- CS Career Fair
- Class Webpages
- Testudo (Schedule of Classes)
- Computer Science Honors
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You're Invited to the Career and Major Info Fair!
Posted on November 2, 2018
Academic Programs   Events
Interested in the STEM field? You're invited to attend the @LTSCAdvising "Where Can STEM Take You?": Major Exploration Fair on Wed, Nov 7th from 2-4pm (drop by anytime) in the STAMP Atrium! Stop by the Undergraduate ...

Apply to the Princeton QCB Program
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Apply to the graduate program in Quantitative and Computational Biology (QCB) at Princeton University. QCB@Princeton offers graduate education at the interface of biology with the physical and computational sciences. They are looking for top students with interests in ...

Undergrad Sophomores - Apply for the Engineering Essentials Program
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Events
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Solve It For the Future at the Lockheed Martin Technology Showcase!
Posted on November 2, 2018
Apply to the graduate program in Quantitative and Computational Biology (QCB) at Princeton University. QCB@Princeton offers graduate education at the interface of biology with the physical and computational sciences. They are looking for top students with interests in ...

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University of Maryland
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(301) 405-2672

Walk-In Advising

Tuesday, November 6, 2018
13:00 - 15:30

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Praesent et nisl est. Nulla risus eros, varius et varius a, pellentesque at magna. Orci varius natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus. Praesent eu quam risus. Duis quis tristique neque, at cursus libero.

Capital One Tech Talk

Thursday, November 8, 2018
17:30-19:30

This report is intended to identify the main design issues with the undergraduate computer science website at the University of Maryland. This is called a heuristic evaluation. In this report I will attempt to identify what these issues are and categorize them by the type of design flaw and the level of severity of that flaw. This helps us understand not only what these issues are, but also helps us identify *why* they are considered issues and what sort of effect they are having on potential users. I will then identify some potential solutions to these issues and create my own redesigned website. Hopefully, this will result in an improved user interface for the website and a better user experience.

Unnecessary Images

Problem: One of the immediate things that stands out as soon as you visit the undergraduate computer science page is how busy it is. There is a static image of a Testudo in the background that distracts from the content of the page.
Heuristic: Simple and natural dialogue
Severity: 1. This change is purely cosmetic.
Solution: The background could be changed to a white image. The page itself is eye-catching enough that there doesn't need to be an extra background image.

The Navigation Bar

Problem: The navigation bar is transparent when you scroll down the page. While this allows users to see where they are as they scroll down, it obscures the menu options and makes them hard to read depending on where you are on the page. The navigation bar is also very large and takes up a lot of the page which makes it difficult for the user to actually see the page's content.
Heuristic: Simple and natural dialogue
Severity: 1. This change is purely cosmetic.
Solution: Make the navigation bar smaller and opaque. This way it will take up less space on the screen and allow the user to see the content that he or she really cares about.

Wasted Space

Problem: Much of the content on the site is extremely large. This only allows for a very limited amount of information to be displayed at any given time. Even the titles for each part of the site are extremely large and take up valuable page real estate.
Heuristic: Simple and natural dialogue
Severity: 1. This change is purely cosmetic.

Solution: Use up some of the "white" space and make things that don't need to be large, smaller.

Useless Pop Ups
Problem: All calendar events are clickable but the modal events that pop up do not match the size of the information. The modal takes up the entire screen, regardless of its content.
Heuristic: Simple and natural dialogue.
Severity: 2. This is a primarily cosmetic issue that does impact the user experience quite a bit. It is jarring to click on an event and have the entire screen be blocked.
Solution: Adjust the size of the modal to fit the size of the information within it.

Exiting Calendar Pop Ups
Problem: When you click on a calendar event, a modal pops up with more detailed information about the event. The X button to close this modal is in the lower right hand corner. The X button is typically in one of the top corners so this confused me when I attempted to locate it. You can't actually even see the top of the modal in the current design, so I was very confused.
Heuristic: Be consistent
Severity: 2. This issue is more than just cosmetic and hurt my experience as a user.
Solution: Make the top of the modal visible and move the X button to the top left corner.

Non-Clickable Blog Dates
Problem: There is a feed of recent blog posts on the CS undergraduate blog. The title is clickable and so are all of the tags. You can group posts this way. You however cannot click on the date that the post was made and see the posts from that day.
Heuristic: Be consistent
Severity: 2. Slightly more than a cosmetic change as it improves the user experience through consistency.
Solution: Make the date clickable. It should look more similar to the other clickable page elements.